mineral sector. Regular interaction with the State Governments is also organised in this regard.

Setting up pilot plants by Indian Bureau of Mines

2099. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilot plants set up by the Indian Bureau of Mines and the location thereof;

(b) whether some new pilot plants are proposed to be set up in 1997-98;

(c) whether any such pilot plant is proposed to be set up in Orissa;

(d) if so, the steps taken in this regard;

(e) the steps taken by Government for the effective functioning of the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM); and

(f) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) Three pilot plants have been set up by the Indian Bureau of Mines for analysis and upgradation of low grade ores at Nagpur, Ajmer and Bangalore.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) and (f) The IBM functions as per the approved charter of functions through its Divisions and Regional Offices. For the effective functioning of the IBM, a very progressive Management Information System has been set up, which has the following elements:—

(i) Annual Action Plan, which lays down specific targets for different Divisions of the IBM;

(ii) Monitoring by the IBM Advisory Board;

(iii) Quarterly Review of the progress by the secretary (mines);

(iv) Periodic review and monitoring by the Controller General, IBM of the work carried out by the Zonal & Regional Offices; and

(v) Periodic workshops with the mine owners and meetings of the Mining Plan Grievance Committee.

Delete Limestone and Bauxite from the list of Scheduled Minerals

2100. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:
SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government approval is sought under the MMRD Act, 1957 for granting a schedule mineral under Schedule-I of the Act;

(b) whether the Government of Gujarat has represented to the Union Government to delete Limestone and Bauxite from the Schedule-I list of the MMRD Act, 1957;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The proposal has been discussed in the meetings of the Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Mines) with the Secretaries of State Governments, Industry, Indian Bureau of Mines etc. as members to review the Mining Rules and procedures etc. The terms of reference of the Committee inter—alia include review of the existing laws and procedures governing regulation and development of minerals and to recommend steps to make them compatiable with the policy changes and